

Draft Vision and Goals

Over the past few weeks representatives from Dane County Parks and the DNR have been grappling with ideas for a vision statement for the park. The vision statement should express how unique Capital Springs is and what it will offer to the public.

The Dane County Parks Commission, all of the governmental partners, such as the cities, villages, and towns that own land within the project boundaries, other partners such as MMSD, and DNR guidance boards have all had an opportunity to comment on several proposed "vision statements". Now it is the public's turn to let the planners know if the draft vision statement reflects the opportunities the park has to offer.

Proposed Vision Statement:

Dane County, the WDNR, and their partners hold the following vision for the future of Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area: Capital Springs, on the edge of urban Madison, is a place where we embrace heritage, education, nature, and recreation. Visitors to the park enjoy a rich system of marshes, springs, creeks, and lakes that recharge our waters and ourselves. They find a healthy place for outdoor learning, recreation, solitude, and reflection. The Heritage Center continues to be focal point where visitors learn about Native American culture, local settlement patterns, and natural systems. This recreation corridor is a key link in the statewide trail system connecting neighborhoods, Madison, and other parts of Wisconsin.

Proposed Goals

To complement the vision statement, goals are developed for the primary elements within the park. The goals listed below cover the historical, natural and recreational opportunities that the public told us were important to consider while planning the park. The goals are quite broad and general at this point and will become more specific as the process moves forward. In Phase 4 (during 2004), Dane County Parks and the DNR will develop very specific objectives or actions for each goal. The following broad goals are proposed:

- Support and expand the cultural, historical, and educational efforts that have been initiated by the Heritage Center, Lake Farm Park Archaeological District, and the historic Nevin Fish Hatchery.
- Provide a variety of cultural, environmental, and outdoor educational opportunities and experiences for all ages and abilities.
- Preserve, protect, manage, and enhance water resources, plant communities, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species.
- Provide a range of low-impact, nature-based land and water recreation activities in environmentally suitable locations.
- Provide trail access from adjoining neighborhoods for recreation and commuting; maintain and enhance connections to the regional land and water trail networks.

Family Fun at the Heritage Center!

A family and community day of fun and education is coming up in September at the Lussier Family Heritage Center at Lake Farm Park! Proceeds will be used to purchase natural and cultural exhibits for the Heritage Center. More details will be available in our next newsletter or call Linda Mitnacht at 608-224-3604.

Please take a few minutes to give us your thoughts on the proposed Vision and Goals Statements. Is this how you see the park? Are the most important aspects of the park considered or are we missing something? Please let us know what you think! Your comments will go to the Dane County Parks Commission, DNR staff, and the consultants. After a review of the public comments, the Vision and Goal Statements will be finalized.

Friends Group Formed

A new Friends Group is currently being formed to support the Capital Springs Centennial State Park & Recreation Area (CSCSPRA) and the Capital City State Trail (CCST).

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks recently co-hosted a very successful fund-raiser in Madison to help raise community support for this new group. The Friends of CSCSPRA and CCST will help tap the unlimited potential of a unique partnership between Wisconsin State Parks, Dane County Parks, and local communities.

It will provide services and support to the park, recreation area, and trail through potential projects such as grassland restoration, trail maintenance and signage, education and interpretation, community events and fund-raisers, and property improvements. This Friends Group will benefit from both the natural and local community resources found in and around the park, recreation area, and trail.

You can support the Friends Group Program by becoming a member of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks or by joining the new Friends of CSCSPRA and CCST as a volunteer member. The Friends are also looking for volunteers to serve on their board of directors as a member or officer. You can also help by joining a committee to help the Friends Group meet its organizational goals and overall mission.

For more information on the Friends Group Program, please contact Camille Zanoni, State Friends Group Coordinator with Wisconsin State Parks at 608-266-7617 , e-mail camille.zanoni@dnr.state.wi.us.

You can also visit the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Web site at www.wistateparksfriends.org.